

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 10, 11, 12, and 21 are pending.

Claims 10, 11, 12, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoroff et al. (6,023,744) in view of Blumenau (6,631,442).

The claims are directed to a storage system that can detect when its storage capacity falls below a predetermined threshold level. When that happens, a mount operation of remote storage is performed.

For example, claim 10 recites when a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its capacity to store data has become less than a predetermined value, a mount operation on one or more disk units at a remote storage system in communication with said storage system so that said remote storage area serves as said storage area. See also independent claims 11, 12, and 21.

Shoroff was cited for showing "detection of insufficient space." (col. 10, lines 45-57). Shoroff, however, teaches detecting insufficient space in a "target file," whereas the pending claims recite a storage system detects that a remaining amount of its capacity to store data has become less than a predetermined value. The recited "capacity to store data" of the storage system is different from detecting sufficient space in a file. Shoroff therefore does not show or suggest this recited limitation of the claims.

Shoroff performs a comparison of the amount of data to be stored against the size of the target file. This is different from the recited detecting that a remaining amount is less than "a predetermined value." Shoroff does not show or suggest this recited limitation in the pending claims.

Blumenau was cited for showing "mounting". Blumenau does not show or suggest the foregoing discussed recited limitations in the pending claims. Therefore, the art of record separately or considered in combination do not teach or render obvious the recited claims. The Section 103 rejection of the claims is believed to be overcome. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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